

Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, January 31, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON TO JACKSON.

Private

Paris, January 31, 1835.

My Dear General, A private letter which I have written to the Vice President and requested him to show to you contains some details which are not put in my public Despatches. You must not be surprised to find that my several communications both public and private vary from each other as to the prospects of our affairs here. the contradiction arises from the vacillating state of things here, a most powerful and bitter opposition to the Ministers exists in the Chambers, and the Colours under which they fight now are those of the privileges of the house. this is suited to the passions and prejudices of the young members, and the Ministers to preserve their places have on two or three Occasions been Obligated to make concessions which they would now willingly retract if they could. the treaty making power has been in Effect Surrendered to them, and the American question as it is called here has become one of Constitutional powers, which if the opposition prevail will soon make the Chamber of Deputies a body having in themselves all the attributions of Government.

Petitions from Lyons have already been presented pray[ing] for the passage of the law. they may be expected from Bordeaux and other places and I still think that the Ministers who are now really in earnest will at length succeed in obtaining the appropriation but the Discussion will not take place before the latter part of February. I am very anxious to know whether the line of Conduct I have pursued meets your approbation. it was pursued

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in opposition to my personal feeling which would have induced me at once to ask for my passports, but I reflected that I had no right to indulge them and that as I was here by your direction I ought not Voluntarily to leave my post without your orders. I beg also that you will have the goodness to examine the letters I have written to the Minister for foreign Affairs since your Message appeared particularly the long note copy of which I send by this packet. It was a Difficult task without instructions to discover the proper matter as well as the proper style to be employed on such an Occasion, and I do not know how I have succeeded. My situation here is not an agreeable one under present Circumstances, but if the interest of the country requires it I shall bear it without Complaint. In my last Communication to the Count de Rigny I thought it necessary to notice the affected m[anner in which] the Minister of Finance had Designated you as *Le Gé[néral Jacks]on* , in order to show that these kind of petty liberties should not pass without reprehension.

I could get over the obstacles placed in my way by the Opposition here if our Own would be silent, their papers are doing a world of Mischief.

With the greatest respect,